



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WASHINGTON REPORT  
by Henry A. Waxman  
Congressman, 24th District

July 30, 1980

## NO NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA

I believe President Carter was gravely mistaken in his decision last month to sell nuclear fuel to India. I have joined with like-minded Congressmen in a determined crusade to cancel the Carter proposal by a majority vote of Congress.

I think nothing is more important than a firm American policy to control in any and every way possible the proliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear arms.

From a scientific standpoint I am not convinced that any country, no matter how well intentioned, can separate peaceful from military development of nuclear technology.

From a political standpoint I do not trust any country, however large or small, to resist the temptation of using nuclear fuel and nuclear know-how to develop weapons.

Even if we were to agree that the government of India is trustworthy (a point on which I am not certain) how much do we know about India's friends?

Is it not true that India has consistently supported the Arab world and the PLO in the United Nations? How does the thought of an Arafat or Khadafy in possession of even the most primitive nuclear weapon make you feel?

Since the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor most Americans have taken the dangers of nuclear energy -- whether peaceful or military -- more seriously. Personally, I have given

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it a tremendous amount of thought to whether or not we should allow additional nuclear power facilities to be built. I have also studied the wide range of proposals for safeguards vastly beyond the range of any now employed at nuclear facilities.

I believe it is morally wrong for us to export nuclear fuel and nuclear power at precisely the time that we have so much doubt about whether it is safe for us. Of all the things America has to give to the world I do not believe Three Mile Island should be among them.

I am totally unimpressed by those who insist that if we do not supply nuclear fuel to India the Soviets will step in and take advantage of the situation. If we were to follow that logic in all our foreign policy decisions we would have to supply nuclear know-how and fissionable material to every country in the world. After all, what country however small might not appear on the list of nations with which the Soviet Union wishes to curry favor?

I was appalled by an unnamed senior State Department official who said, "We don't believe at this critical time we should deal ourselves out of the game by refusing this critical South Asian player." I do not regard the proliferation of nuclear weapons as a "game" in which the United States and the Soviet Union are "Players".

If the current nuclear powers fail to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons the "game" will end fairly fast and in total disaster. American security and survival are simply not compatible with a policy of cavalier exportation of the knowledge and supplies needed to build nuclear arms.

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